

The Deutschlandticket sozial

The North Rhine-Westphalian state government has introduced the “Deutschlandticket sozial” for eligible recipients. This solution is in the interests of customers, since no agreement has yet been reached on a nationwide ticket for benefit recipients based on the Deutschlandticket. The local and district authorities in the WestfalenTarif rate zone decide on whether to offer the “Deutschlandticket sozial” or not.

Important Information at a glance

- ✓ **Launch:** incremental starting on 1 December 2023; the decision on the introduction of the “Deutschlandticket sozial” is taken by the local and district authorities
- ✓ **Costs:** EUR 39 per month
- ✓ **Prerequisite:** eligibility, proof of eligibility required
- ✓ **Ticket type:** subscription with a monthly cancellation option and the same maximum validity term as the proof of eligibility
- ✓ **Ticket purchases:** online or via the transport service provider’s local customer centre
- ✓ **Payment:** payment is made exclusively via the SEPA direct debit system
- ✓ **Use:** “Deutschlandticket sozial” holders can use all bus, tram, light rail and underground railway services as well as 2nd class metropolitan, regional and regional express rail services throughout Germany. Long-distance services (ICE, IC, EC) and private services (e.g. Flixbus) are excluded.

Ticket purchases

Proof of eligibility is required to purchase a “Deutschlandticket sozial”. This can be obtained from the municipal or district authority at the place where the eligible person lives.

- ✓ Please contact your local or district authority at your place of residence to enquire whether you are eligible.
- ✓ They can also tell you which transport services provider to order the ticket from.

Ticket information

“Deutschlandticket sozial”	Ticket characteristics
Ticket type	Monthly cancellable subscription with no minimum term
Prerequisite	“Deutschlandticket sozial” can only be purchased by certain eligible individuals. Proof of edibility is therefore required to order it.
Validity	German-wide
No. of journeys	Any number of journeys on all bus, tram, light rail and underground railway services as well as 2nd class metropolitan rail services (regional and regional express). “Deutschlandticket sozial” cannot be used for long-distance journeys (ICE, IC, EC) or private-sector services (e.g. Flixtrain, Flixbus).
Term of validity	“Deutschlandticket sozial” can be used all day long for one calendar month.
Transferability	Non-transferable. Use by other persons is not possible.
Accompanying persons	Not included. Additional tickets must be purchased for accompanying persons.
Bicycle transportation	Not included. An additional FahrradTicket (bicycle ticket) has to be purchased to transport a bicycle.
1st class use	Not possible. To use 1st class an additional 1st class surcharge ticket has to be purchased.
Orders	“Deutschlandticket sozial” is a subscription ticket that has to be ordered in advance. Contact your municipal/local transport service provider to order one.
Cancellation	Cancellation by the 10th of a month to the end of the respective calendar month



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Pers“Deutschlandticket sozial” can be ordered by recipients of

- ✓ citizen's benefit in accordance with Book II of the German Social Code (SGB II) (unemployment benefit type II and social security benefit);
- ✓ benefits in accordance with Book XII of the German Social Code (SGB XII) for basic old age security and reduced earning capacity benefits as well as ongoing assistance for living expenses outside of institutions (“social assistance”);
- ✓ standard benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act or ongoing war victims' welfare benefits;
- ✓ housing benefit under the Housing Benefits Act (WoGG). The respective local or district authority decides whether these people are eligible to purchase the “Deutschlandticket sozial”.

Important information

- ✓ “Deutschlandticket sozial” is a subscription-based ticket. If the ticket is not needed, the user has to cancel it. Otherwise, it is renewed for a further month.
- ✓ “Deutschlandticket sozial” has the same maximum validity term as the proof of eligibility.
- ✓ “Deutschlandticket sozial” cannot be purchased at ticket vending machines.
- ✓ “Deutschlandticket sozial” cannot be paid for in cash or by card.

